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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we whisper our prayer boldly before Your throne of grace. You have invited us to come to You with all our needs. We thank You for our requests that You have already answered. We have sought and found. We have knocked and walked through open doors.

Lord, with Your grace and mercy, strengthen our lawmakers for their journey. Prepare them for the ravages of the valley and the chill of the mountain summits. Guide them, great Redeemer. They are pilgrims on this Earth. They are weak, but You are mighty. Inspire them to keep their eyes on You and not the problems that seem too difficult to solve.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, when President Obama signed the Iran deal, we were led to believe that this rapprochement with the Iranian regime would induce Iran to moderate its ag-

gressive foreign policy and that Iran would likely spend the money made available through that deal on economic development for the good of its people. Instead, under the direction of General Soleimani, Iran accelerated its effort at regional domination, funding terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah in the Palestinian territories and Lebanon, pro-Iranian militias in Iraq, the Assad regime in Syria, and the Houthi rebels fomenting civil war in Yemen. Iran did all of that with money from the Iran agreement.

Meanwhile, the suffering Iranian people staged widespread demonstrations against their government, which were met with a violent crackdown that killed hundreds. Years of appeasement didn't work, but it looks like President Trump's deterrence is having positive effect.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today it appears that the House Democrat majority will finally stand behind its decision to impeach the President of the United States. Last year, the House of Representatives rushed through the least thorough and most unclear impeachment inquiry in American history. They took just 12 weeks—12 weeks.

There was more than a year of hearings before the impeachment of President Nixon. There were multiple years of investigation for President Clinton. When people are serious about compiling evidence and proving a case, these things take time.

That is not what happened this time. House Democrats performed a pale imitation of a real inquiry. They did not

pursue their own subpoenas through the courts. They declined to litigate potential questions of privilege. They pulled the plug as soon as Speaker PELOSI realized she had enough Democrat votes to achieve a political outcome.

This isn't really about Ukraine policy or military assistance money. It can't be because, for one thing, prominent Democrats were promising to impeach President Trump years—years—before those events even happened.

The day this President was inaugurated, the Washington Post said: "The campaign to impeach President Trump has begun." That was the day he was inaugurated, stated in the Washington Post.

More than 2 years ago, Congressman JERRY NADLER was campaigning to be the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, specifically because he was an impeachment expert.

Just a few weeks ago, when a reporter asked Speaker PELOSI why the Democrats were in such a hurry, here is her response:

Speed? It's been going on for 22 months. Two and a half years, actually.

That is really interesting—really, really interesting. The events over which the Democrats want to impeach happened just 6 months ago—just 6 months ago—not 2½ years ago.

So how has impeachment been underway for 2½ years? The Speaker tried to say she was referring to the Mueller investigation, except the House couldn't impeach on the Mueller investigation because the facts let them down; remember?

The House impeached over events in Ukraine, events that happened only 6 months ago, but they still admit this was years in the making. It was not some earnest factfinding mission that brought us to where we are. This is not about the nuances of foreign assistance to Eastern Europe. This has been naked partisanship all along—naked partisanship all along.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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